

Mansfield Commission on Aging
MINUTES
Tuesday, October 14, 2003 2:30 PM – Senior Center

PRESENT: Burt Turcotte (guest), John Brubacher, Patty Hope (staff), Susanna Thomas (chair), Phil Secker, Carol McMillan, Kevin Grunwald (staff), Elizabeth Norris, Beth Acebo, Barbara Ivry, Mary Thatcher, Carol Phillips, Dorothea Mercier (guest), Jean Ann Kenny (staff)

- I. **Call to Order:** Meeting called to order at 2:30 PM
- II. **Appointment of Recording Secretary:** Kevin Grunwald agreed to take minutes for this meeting.
- III. **Acceptance of Minutes of the Sept. 8, 2003 meeting:** minutes were reviewed and accepted as written.
- IV. **Correspondence** - Chair and Staff: none received
- V. **Optional Reports** on Services/Needs of Town Aging Populations

A. Health Care Services

Wellness Center and Wellness Program - J. Kenny distributed copies of her report for the month of September.

Mansfield Center for Nursing and Rehabilitation - J. Kenny reported that they are in the process of fund-raising for facility improvements.

B. Social, Recreational and Educational

Senior Center – P. Hope distributed her report for the month of September. She noted that The Senior Center Association is sponsoring a reception for her on October 16. Joan Quarto represented the Center at the Know Your Town Fair on September 6, A new Cancer Support Group will be starting. The Apple Harvest Bazaar was held successfully. Jolene Gates from CT Legal Services will be here to talk about ConnPace and the CT Homecare Program. She will also be at the Center monthly to meet with people individually to answer any legal questions they may have. P. Hope also reported that there is a possibility that the Center will explore cooking meals here periodically to increase participation in the lunch program.

Senior Center Assoc. – J. Brubacher reported that there are several active committees of the Association, including one that is reviewing the bylaws. The computer committee is reviewing how the program is operating. John also mentioned that the Association is reviewing programs overall, and specifically looking at how to respond to the needs of aging “baby boomers.” He suggested looking at the possible expansion of the senior/wellness center facility. John

encouraged members to spend time with Patty Hope to learn about her ideas for the Center.

C. Housing

Assisted Living Project – K. Grunwald reported on a presentation that was done by Mike Taylor to the Mansfield Downtown Partnership on a recommendation to consider supported housing for seniors in the Storrs downtown project. Kevin will coordinate efforts with Mike Taylor and Howard Raphaelson and will continue to keep the Commission informed regarding any developments in this area.

Juniper Hill: B. Acebo reported that there is little activity; no renovations have started. Marcia Zimmer has left and a replacement has not been hired for her. J. Kenny reports that Juniper Hill is offering assisted living services for up to 20 hours a week of nursing services.

Jensen's Park: B. Turcotte reported on behalf of Bob Goldsborough. He indicated that there are concerns about speeding in the park. J. Brubacher reported that copies of Sparks are being brought over and every new resident is given a copy.

D. Related Town and Regional Organizations

Com. on Physically and Sensorily Impaired - Mary Thatcher reported that Cynthia Van Zelm presented recently to the committee on the status of the Downtown Partnership. Concerns were raised about crossing Rt. 195.

Senior Resources of Eastern CT – Carol McMillan reported that she will be the Mansfield representative for one more month. Their Annual Dinner is October 30.

Town Plan of Conservation and Development – Carol Phillips had nothing to report.

Town Community Center: Ray Moore has rotated off of the Commission. Barbara Ivory reported that she had a tour today and was very impressed. The prospective date for opening is Oct. 22.

VI. Old Business

Report of the Nominating Committee – Nora Stevens was not present, but Susanna Thomas reported recommendations for Kenneth Doeg and Dorothea Mercier (present as a guest). The nominations were approved as new members of the Commission. The Department of Social Services will produce an updated list of members and expiration terms.

Review of the Commission's Long Range Plan, 1994 –2004: Susanna Thomas referred to the Long Range Plan, which was intended to extend through next year. A suggestion was made that the Commission review what has been done in the areas entitled "Research and Study." There were several suggestions made that the School of Family Studies may have a student who can work on this project. S. Thomas indicated that she would like the Commission members to review this plan and begin to think about how this plan needs to be amended. It was noted that transportation continues to be a critical issue for seniors in this area. There ensued some discussion about the role of this Commission as an advocacy group. J. Brubacher raised the question of who will take a leadership role in this

regard. It was suggested that Edith Prague and Denise Merrill be invited to speak to members of the Senior Center on legislative issues affecting seniors. Patty Hope and John Brubacher will work on this along with

Patty will also attempt to get Judith Stine from the Center On Medicare Advocacy to speak on issues related to Medicare reform.

VII. **New Business**

Appointment of Reporters on Fund Requests from Outside Agencies: K. Grunwald reported that this process is being revised and new information will be provided at the next meeting.

- VI. **Adjournment:** Meeting adjourned at 4:10 PM
(the next meeting is scheduled for Monday, November 10, 2003 at 2:30, Senior Center).